SEVERAL LETTERS From the Lord Generall Monck,

Commander in Chief of the forces in *Scotland*, and one of the Commissioners by Act of Parliament for the Government of this Common-wealth,

VIZ.

To Mr. SPEAKER,

To the Lord *FLEETWOOD*.

To the Lord *LAMBERT*.

Printed, Anno 1660.

19/32

Plain

TO THE SPEAKER.

Right honourable,

HAving received notice, that there was a force put upon the *Parliament* on the twelfth of this instant, I have sent this Messenger to your Lordship, to know whether that force doth continue; for I am resolved by the Grace and Assistance of GOD, as a true *English-man, to stand to and assert the Liberty and Authority of* PARLIAMENT; And the Army here, (praised be God) is very courageous and unanimous, and *I* doubt not but to give a good accompt of this action to You. I have, according to your Act of the 11*th* instant, being constituted a Commissioner for the government of the Army, put out such persons as would not act according to your Commission: *I do call GOD to witness, That the Asserting of a Common-wealth is the only intent of my heart*, and I desire, if possible, to avoid the shedding of blood, and therefore entreat you, that there may be a good understanding between *Parliament* and *Army*; But if they will not obey Your Commands, I will not desert You, according to my Duty and Promise. Which is all at present from

Edinburgh *Your humble and faithful*

Octob. 20. *Servant;*

1659. *GEORGE MONCK.*

To the Lord FLEETWOOD.

Right honourable,

I *Have sent this Messenger to your Lordship, to let you know that we have received notice, that a part of the Army have put force upon the* Parliament, *which they so lately calle together, and owned with the greatest Testimonies of Obedience and Repentance for their former Apostacy* from them; *I hope your Lordship will not abet an Action of such a dangerous and destructive Consequence; I know that you love the Liberty and Peace of* England *so well, That you will use your best Care, That Attempts of this nature be suppressed. I do therefore humbly intreat you, that* the Parliament may be speedily restored to that Freedom, which they enjoyed on the 11th of this instant, *Otherwise I am resolved, by the Assistance of God, with the Army under my Command,* to declare for them, *and to* prosecute this just Cause to the last drop of my Blood; *I bless the Lord, that the Officers here are very unanimous: and for such, whose hearts fail them, or which will not act according to their Commissions from the* Parliament, *I having Authority as one of the Seven Commissioners appointed by Act of* Parliament, *do constitute such as are chearful for this* Good Old Cause, *till the Parliaments pleasure be further known; And I do plainly assure your Lordship, that I was never better satisfied in the justice of any Engagement than in this: You cannot but remember that God hath already shewed Himself glorious in it,* and determined the quarrel on this side, against Arbitrary power of raising Money without the Peoples consent first had, *and the* management of the Militia by any other then the Parliament. *I desire your Lordship not to be deluded by the specious pretences of any ambitious person whatsoever, and do not bring all the blood that will be shed upon your own head; My Lord, consider how you will answer to the dreadful God for the ruine of three Nations, for to serve a lust or to gratifie a passion: For my particular, I am ashamed of these confusions and Charges that we have made, that we are now become a scorn and a reproach to our very friends, and assigned to ruine by all our Neighbours. I take God*

to

to witnesse, that I have no further ends then the *establishing of* Parliamentary Authority. *and those good Laws that our Ancestors have purchased with so much blood,* the setling the Nations in a free Common-wealth, and the defence of godlyness and godly men, though of different Judgment; And I take my self so far obliged, being in the Parliaments Service, to stand, though alone, in this Quarrell, *And I doubt not but your Lordship, having the fear of God in your heart will carefully consider of this matter: Which is all at present from*

Edinb *Octob.* 20. 1659. Your Excellencies humble servant,

GEORGE MONCK.

To the Lord *LAMBERT.*

Right honourable,

HAving notice, that a part of the Army under the Parliaments Command, have, contrary to their duty, put force upon them; I have therefore sent this Messenger to your Lordship, to intreat you to be an instrument of Peace and good understanding between Parliament and Army: for, if they shall continue this Force, I am resolved with the assistance of God, and that part of the Army under my Command, to stand by them, *and assert their lawful Authority.* For Sir the Nation of *England* will not endure *any Arbitrary Power neither will any true English-man in the Army, so that such a design will be ruinous and destructive*; Therefore I do earnestly intreat you, that we may not be a scorne to all the world, and a Prey to our enemies, *that the Parliament may be speedily restored to their Freedom which they enjoyed on the* 11*th of this instant. Which is all at present from*

Your Lordships humble servant,

GEORGE MONCK.

A LETTER OF THE OFFICERS of the ARMY in SCOTLAND, under the Commander in Chief there,

To the OFFICERS of the Army in ENGLAND.

Dear Brethren and Friends,

THis is, of all the dayes of Trouble God hath brought upon us, the sadoest that ever our Eyes saw in these poor Nations; We have had to do often with the Common Enemy, but never before engaged against our Friends, the very thoughts of which is a wound, deeper in our Spirits than the sword can make in our Bowels.

Above all things therefore it is our earnest Prayer, and shall be our endeavour, to *Retonsile* the differences in that which to our Consciences seemes the most equitable and just *Medium* for us to agree in, namely, To intreat you (as we have interposed with the superiour Officers of the Army) to labour a due understanding between your selves and the Parliament, the necessity and equity of which request we cannot but believe you must subscribe to, if you seriously consider a few Propositions.

1. Whether the asserting of a free Parliament, duly qualified, of faithfull men to GOD, and his people in these Nations, to be the *Supream Legislative Authority* of these Nations, was not the *Good Old Cause* we fought for, as that onely which vindicated in Spirituals our Consciences from Imposition upon them, contrary to the Liberty of the Subjects of JESUS CHRIST, and our Persons, and Estates, and Posterity in *Civils*, from the Usurpations of the

the late King upon the Liberties and ancient Rights of the Free-born People of *England*.

2. Whether it be not the only vindication of your late laying aside the Son and Succeſſor of our old General, becauſe you did verily believe, as you have proteſted to the world, *That the Government of any ſingle perſon might in time, ruine the aforementioned Liberties, purchaſed by our Blood, and the vaſt Treaſures of this Commonwealth; Monarchy, however bounded, neceſſarily requiring Uniformity as to Religion, and* Prerogative *as to Civil, both which muſt needs be oppreſſive and deſtructive to our Conſciences and Rights.*

3. Whether, when you ſet up again this *Famous Old Parliament*, you did not believe in your Conſcinces that it was a Return to the *Good Old Cauſe*, from which you had Apoſtatized, and the beſt Expedient to heal the ſad breaches of this poor Commonwealth, which the Luſts of men have made; witneſs your Declaration preſented by the Lord *Lambert*, and the reſt (the ſixth of *May*) to the Speaker, as the Repreſentee of the Houſe.

4. Whether, this Parliament hath ever yet endangered or diſowned you, or the Nation in theſe Great Ends (*which can only acquit all the bloodſhed from Murther*) your Liberties as *Engliſhmen* and your Privileges as Chriſtians, but rather have given ſecurity for both, in ſuch Votes as they had time to paſs, by ſuch promiſes as they are too honeſt to forget, and by a Progreſs large enough, conſidering the Confuſions and Difficulties they found the Government in, by our ſetting up the things, of which we are now aſhamed.

5. Whether, if your Conſciences be better informed, it can ſatisfie ours, or any Chriſtian Conſciences in the Nation, to act according to your particular apprehenſions, when we ſee them croſs ſo much the plain Rule of the Word; which, as it requires obedience to all Authority, ſo much more to that which is aſſerted and ſeeled upon the ſureſt Foundation of the Peoples Rights; and to which you are ſo ſolemnly engaged by Proteſtations, as in the preſence of God, *who will not hold them guiltleſs that takes his Name in vaine.*

6. 'Whether, if upon this occaſion of our Diſſentings, the 'Common Enemy ſhould ariſe with a ſtronger party, and make uſe

of

'of our Diviſions to yoak us in bondage worſe than ever: That 'their little finger ſhould be heavier than the Loins of thoſe pre-'ceded them, the people of theſe Nations would not have ſad 'Cauſe to leave at your doors the blood of thoſe Innocents they 'muſt ſacrifice to their Cruelty, Conſidering eſpecially that the Redemption of theſe old Uſurpations, muſt be by the Heads of Gods People, and bring worſe upon us, the blood of Saints, whoſe death is precious in the ſight of the Lord. We beg you therefore, to lay to heart the Premiſſes, and believe we are men of ſuch Conſciences, as cannot cloſe with this Action and Acquieſce in it, But would cordially deſire, that God may humble us for the evil of our wayes, That in making Peace with Him, we may Unite in love to each other: And we ſhall alſo aſſure you, that though the preſent Emergency hath made our Commander in chief, to put ſome of the Officers from their Commands, whoſe actings have not been ſuch as might promiſe they can cordially joyn in this buſineſs, yet he hath continued to them their Sallaries out of the Contingencies of the Army, till the Parliaments pleaſure be further known: And we ſhall alſo aſſure you, That whatever endeavours may be for the ſetling of *this Parliament again in a free capacity to Act for us in theſe Nations*, we ſhall be as ready as you to bear a Teſtimony againſt them ſuitable to our ſtation, if they ſhould violate the ſo often promiſed and engaged for Liberties of theſe Nations, whether Spiritual or Civil, There being a witneſs againſt them in their late Votes, that the *Repreſentative* of the people, is entruſted not for the Ruine, but the ſafety of the Commonwealth.

Linlithgow,
Octob. 22.
1659.

To the Right Honourable the Lord *Fleetwood*, to be Communicated to the Officers of the Army in and about *London*.

Signed in the Name, and by the appointment of the Officers of the Army in Scotland.

WILLIAM CLARKE,
SECRETARY.

A SECOND

LETTER

TO THE

Lord Fleetvvood.

SIR,

VVE think fit to acquaint you, that the Lord has so prosper'd our endeavours here, that my Lord General *Monck* and the Officers have accepted of our Overtures of mediation, and they have appointed Col. *Wilkes*, Lieutenant Col. *Clobery* and Major *Knight*, to repair to *London* Commissioners, to treat with the like number of Officers there for a firm peace and unity amongst the Forces of both Nations; for which we doubt not but the prayers of all good men will be poured forth to the Throne of Grace. We have prevailed with my Lord General to dispatch Order this night to his remotest Quarters, that they advance not further Southwards during this Treaty, and we desire you will do the like, that none of yours may march more Northward then they are; And truly for as much as we can perceive, none of these Forces had so hastily marched out of *Scotland*, if yours had not gathered this way. In a few dayes we shall see you, and in the mean time desire you to believe we are,

Sir, Your affectionate Servants,

Dalkjeth this 4th of *Novemb.* 659.

Thomas Clarges,
Thomas Talbot.

GENERAL MONCKS LAST LETTER TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE Lord Fleetwood.

My Lord,

AFter I had answered the Letter your Lordship did me the favour to send me by Col. *Talbot*, I received another from your Lordship, of the 29*th* of *October*, wherein your Lordship is pleased to express much of your Lordships Affection and Friendship to me, for which I shall ever acknowledge my self engaged to you; but truly I must assure your Lordship, no personal Discouragements (although I have had my share of them) have induced me to the Justification I make of the *Parliaments Authority*, but the tie of duty to which I am in my Conscience obliged, and I shall be heartily sorry, if your Lordship makes any other Interpretation of it, for your Lordship knows my Command has been offered often up to those that had power to place it better: We are all I bless the Lord, very unanimous here, and I am confident when the

the Gentlemen we ſend from hence have given your Lordſhip a true underſtanding of our actions, you will not have ſo ſevere an opinion of them, as you ſeem to have in your late Letters: The perſons names are, Col. *Wilkes*, Lieut. Col. *Clobery*, and Major *Knight*, all well known to your Lordſhip, to whom I beſeech your Lordſhip to give credit, in what they ſhall propoſe from the Army here, and I beſeech you to believe, I am ſtill with a ſincere heart,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips very humble ſervant,

GEORGE MONCK.

A Letter ſent by General MONCK

to Vice Admiral *GOODSON*, to be communicated to the reſt of the Officers of the Fleet, in anſwer to a Letter with ſome Propoſals lately ſent to him from Them.

Dear Country-men and Commanders,

I Am glad that you have not forgotten your old friend, and that by this occaſion, I have ſuch advantage to hear of your hearty affections to me, and kind remembrance of me, and that you have ſuch a deep ſence of the diviſions amongſt us, and the miſerable conſequence thereof; but I am very much ſadded that you have entertained ſuch miſtakes and miſapprehenſions of our proceedings. Theſe encloſed Papers will fully ſatisfie you, that we have juſt grounds of diſſatisfaction, and that we cannot comply with ſuch violent and unwarrantable undertakings, both againſt our reaſon as men, and againſt our Conſciences as Chriſtians, that you and we ſhould take our Commiſſions and pay from the *Parliament*, and yet to violate their Authority, after ſuch ſolemn aſſurances of obedience and faithfulneſs, contrary to the expreſſed word of God, and our own late Addreſſes. I hope I am ſo well known to ſome of you, *that I am none of thoſe that ſeek great things to my ſelf*, or delight in the ſhedding the blood of *Engliſh* men, much leſſe of Chriſtian

 Brethren

Brethren, but to preſerve the name of God from Blaſphemy and Reproach, which our actings (I wiſh I could not call them, treacherouſneſs and perfidiouſneſs have occaſioned; whereby Jeſus Chriſt and his truth have been evil ſpoken of, which makes our very lives bitter to us, *and to aſſert the integrity and honour of this Army, which is very dear to me*, I have been forced with the Parliaments Army under my command, (though with much grief of heart) to bear our Teſtimony againſt the late violence of the Army; and the reaſons thereof you will find in our printed papers, and our endeavours to perſwade them in *England* to remove that force which they have put upon *the Parliament*. As to your Propoſals, I beſeech you ſeriouſly to conſider and lay to heart theſe following Anſwers.

1. To the firſt, you are pleaſed to intimate the joy of the Cavaliers that they ſee us ſtand to our Declaration, but I believe, that this violent interruption *of the Parliament was the greateſt* courteſie to gratefie that *Family and Intereſt* that could be imagined in the World, (*and I could wiſh it were not deſigned*). I ſhould be very ſad to ſtrengthen the hands of the *Wicked*, but let me aſſure you, this ariſeth from the ſlanders and calumnies which men caſt upon us in *England*, as if *we that aſſert the Authority of thoſe that brought the late King to the Block, are for introducing that Family*, which I take *God to witneſs, we in our very thoughts abhor, and ſhall ſpend our blood in oppoſition to any Single perſon whatſoever.*

2. You are pleaſed to compare our preſent differences to that of the *Iſraelites*, with the two Tribes of *Reuben, Gad*, and halfe the Tribe of *Manaſſes*) and I earneſtly pray that there may be the ſame iſſue, for if they will reſtore *theſe perſons* to their *lawfull Authority, which have been eſtabliſhed by many ſucceſſes*, and for the difference of which they ſo lately hazarded to blood *we ſhall quietly ſit down and wait upon the Providences of God in our places and Stations*, and to this end we have ſent Commiſſioners into *England* men faithfull and approved. What you are pleaſed to inſtance concerning my ſatisfaction in the year 1653. When this Parliament was interrupted formerly, I ſhall anſwer you to that, it was never in my Conſcience to go out of Gods way under the pretence of doing Gods work, and you know the variety of times doth much vary the nature of affaires, and what might then patiently be ſubmitted unto, we being engaged with a forraign Enemy in a bloody War,

unto

cannot be drawn into a president at this time; after our Repentance and assurance of Loyalty and Constancy; you may be pleased to remember *that the consequence of the former Interruption was the Introduction of a single person, and a manifest breach of all our promises and engagements*, so that if God blessed me with success, then I do much more through mercy expect it now, when I put all to hazzard for the Glory of God and the good of his people.

3. I do acknowledge that the Army hath been in the hand of God and instruments of good to these Nations, yet if they shall apostate from the Cause of God and his people in exposing them to Arbitrary Power, and the wills of men, in taking upon them to Abolish Lawes, raise money without consent of the people, destroy Ministery and property, and force Parliaments, I cannot but witness against such proceedings as unwarrantable not suited to any rule either from God or man.

4. *I have taken care by Garrisons in this Country, and assurance from the whole body of the Nation, that they will not own the interest of* Charles Stewart., and that they will preserve the peace of the Commonwealth in obedience to the parliament; So that if that part of the Army in *England* will set up a distinct interest in the Nation, in deserting that Cause that hath been so precious to us, and cost so much blood and treasure for to establish their own Interest and greatness. I do declare in the presence of the Great God I cannot own you, nor Ioyn with them; Now having opened my heart to you and as you know my plainness and sincerity, that I am none of those that dare assert any thing against my Conscience, from that experience ye have had of me, I heartily begg your belief and credit, that I shall keep in the way of duty, and endeavour to do the Lords work in my Generation, and shall not own any corrupt interest whatsoever, and do desire of God his blessing according to my Integrity in this undertaking, having this good Testimony in my own Spirit, that I have nothing but publick and Righteous ends upon my heart, and by all these respects and kindnesses that I have received from you, I desire you will joyn with us in your desires that *this Parliament* may be restored to the excution of their duties and trust, with freedome and honour; I have no more but my hearty Love and service to you all, desiring God to bless you all, and make you happy instruments for the good

of

these Nations in your severall places which shall be alwayes the Prayer of dear Friends.

Edenburgh, Novemb. 29. 1659.

Your humble Servant and fellow Souldier, G. M.

To the Right Honourable Vice Admiral Goodson, *to be Communicated to the rest of the Officers of the Fleet, in Answer to the Letter that was sent to me from them.*

A

LETTER

Of General

George Moncks,

Dated at *Leicester* 23 *Ianuary*, and directed unto Mr. *Rolle* to be communicated unto the rest of the Gentry of *Devon*: occasioned by a late Letter from the Gentry of *Devon* dated at *Exceter* 14 *Ianuary*, and sent by Mr. *Bampfield* to the Speaker; to be communicated unto the Parliament.

Read in Parliament Jan. 26.

Most honoured and dear Friends,

MEeting with a Paper dated at *Exon* the 13 instant, directed to *William Lenthal* Esq; Speaker of the Parliament, and subscribed by

by divers of my friends and relations, purporting the recalling the Members secluded 1648. as the best expedient for establishing these Nations upon a foundation of lasting peace. I have taken the boldness from my relation to some of you as allyed, and my affectionate respects to all of you as dear Friends and Countrey-men, to represent to your considerarion my present apprehensions of the state of Affairs here, in order to all our better satisfactions; wherein I humbly crave your leave of freedom without prejudice.

Before these unhappy Wars the Government of these Nations was Monarchical in Church and State: these wars have given birth and growth to several Interests both in Church and State heretofore not known; though now upon many accounts very considerable, as the *Presbyterian*, *Independent*, *Anabaptist* and *Sectaries* of all sorts as to Ecclesiasticks; and the Purchasers of the Kings, Queens, Princes, Bishops, Deans and Chapters, and all other forfeited Estates; and all those engaged in these Wars against the King as to civils. These Interests again are so interwoven by Purchases and Intermarriages, and thereby forfeited; as I think upon rational grounds it may be taken for granted; *That no Government can be either good, peaceful or lasting to these Nations, that doth not rationally include and comprehend the security and preservrtion of all the foresaid Interests both Civil and Spiritual; I mean so far as by the Word of God they are warranted to be protected and preserved. If this be so, Then that Government under which we formerly were both in State and Church*, viz. *Monarchy cannot possibly be admitted for the future in these Nations, because its support is taken away, and because its exclusive of all the former Interests both* Civil *and Spiritual, all of them being incompatible with Monarchical Vniformity in Church and State thus expired.* That *Government then that is most able to comprehend and protect all Interests as aforesaid must needs be Republique.*

Wherefore to me it's no small doubt, if upon the Premises to admit of the Members secluded 1648. were not to obstruct our peace and continue our War, rather than establish the one, and end the other; in that very many of those Members assert the Monarchical Interest, together with the abolition of all Laws made since

thei

their ſeclusion ; Which I fear upon accompt of ſelf-preſervation both of Life and Eſtate as well as Spiritual Liberty, will immediatly involve all theſe Nations in moſt horrid and bloody War afreſh; *the very apprehenſions whereof, I confeſs, I do infinitely dread*, and ſubmit the dangerous conſequence thereof to your prudent conſiderations, and the rather, ſeeing the Army alſo will never endure it.

Having thus briefly laid before you the preſent condition of Affairs, let me now intreat you to conſider whither it were not better to deſiſt from that Paper, and ſubmit to the proceedings of this *Parliament*, who have reſolved to fill up their Houſe, determin their ſitting, and prepare a way for future ſucceſſions of Parliament ; by which means being full, and thereby comprehending the whole Intereſt of theſe Nations, they may through God's Mercy, and all our patiences, eſtabliſh ſuch a Government in the *way of a Common-wealth*, as may be comprehenſive of all Intereſts both Spirituall and Civil, to the glory of God, and the weale and peace of the whole. But if by your impatiencies they be obſtructed, *our peace will be ſo much the longer a ſtranger to us*, and we thereby a prey to our ſelves, and all forreign Enemies. Wherefore humbly preſſing theſe upon your ſerious conſiderations with all the friendly and affectionate reſpects and ſervice to you all, I remain

Deareſt Friends,

Your very humble and affectionate

Leiceſter, 21. *Jan.* 1659.

Servant,

GEORGE MONCK.

For the honoured Robert Rolles *Eſq; to be communicated to the Gentlemen of* Devonſhire, *who ſigned the late Letter to the Speaker of the* Parliament *of the Common-wealth of* England.

A

LETTER

FROM THE

Officers at Whitehal

To the OFFICERS under

General Monck

In *SCOTLAND.*

Dear Brethen and Fellow Souldiers,

WE moſt heartily wiſh Grace and Truth to be multiplied unto you, through the knowledge of God, and of Jeſus our Lord; And alſo we deſire the God and Father of all Grace, to add to your Faith, Vertue; & to Vertue, Knowledg; and to Knowledge, Temperance; and to Temperance, Godlineſs; and to Godlineſs, Brotherly Kindneſs; and to Brotherly Kindneſs, Charity.

Dear Brethren, We cannot but be deeply affected and afflicted in our own ſpirits, to conſider of your diſſatisfaction with us upon miſtaken grounds. You have known us this many years to be your faithful Brethren, that durſt do nothing that is ſinful; And we may affirm with plainneſs, honeſty and ſimplicity of heart, we have done nothing in the late Revolution, but that which the Providence of the moſt wiſe God prepared to our

hands, and led us unto, without ſo much as one half hours time to deſign or reſolve to take that courſe we were neceſſitated unto; Since which moſt of ſuch perſons that were not clear in the preſent and ſudden Action, have made their acknowledment of their full ſatisfaction, and we are mutually reconciled, and they are received and tendered by us as affectionate Brethren: And for a more full Narrative of the providential Grounds, and gradual Steps that led us to that Work, yet (with aking hearts) and as an Anſwer to your Queries, ſigned in your name by *William Clerk*, Secretary, bearing date the 22. inſtant, We refer you to a Book, Intituled, *The Armies Plea*, and alſo, *The Armies Declaration*, relation thereunto being had, we hope will give you ſatisfaction.

Loving Brethren, What have we done that you are offended? we are not conſcious that any thing is acted by us upon the publick Theater, but that which we judge is acceptable to God: And what we have done hath proceeded from uprightneſs of heart, and for the glory of God, the good of his Intreſt, Cauſe, and People in theſe Nations: Nothing leſs than theſe worthy ends could have cauſed us to adventure our *All*, that is dear to us for your and their ſakes; And after ſuch a hazard, our Brethren to look ſhy upon us, yea ſuch, with whom we have lived, and converſed together, prayed, fought, and jeoparded our lives together, and witneſſes together of the glory of the moſt high God. in the high places of the field; Yea, we that are of one Society, of one Family and Houſhold, that none hitherto (through the grace of God could diſ-unite us) now to be at a diſtance with us, is the greateſt wound to us, which is unexpreſſable: If it had been from our Enemies, we could have born it; Oh but, they are the wounds of the houſe of our Friends. And all this ariſing without dealing brotherly with us, and without ſo much as ſending to know the providential Grounds that led us to theſe Undertakings; And likewiſe your and our unhappineſs hath been poſſibly by miſ-informations received by thoſe who have correſponded with the principal occaſioners of this Breach; However we are cenſured by you, we ſhall, we hope, carry Chriſtianly and Brotherly towards you, and exerciſe our ſelves in the Doctrine of our Saviour, *If any be overtaken in a fault, reſtore*

ſuch

ſuch a one in the ſpirit of meekneſs, knowing alſo, we are ſubject to like temptations: And we ought to pitty and pray for one another, and forgive one another, *even as God for Chriſts ſake hath forgiven us*; We hope the fear of God will guide you, ſo that you may do nothing to grieve Him and his little Flock, and rejoyce the common Enemy abroad and at home, nor give them advantages to make a prey of theſe poor Nations: What can you propound to your ſelves? If you are for good things, ſo are we; if for a Free-State and Common-wealth, ſo are we; if againſt a Single Perſon, ſo are we; if for Reformation, ſo are we; if for Godlineſs, and the Nations to be exalted in Righteouſneſs, ſo are we; Why do we differ in the form and way to it? Oh, dear friends if you ſhould precipitately engage into a War, and ſhould Conquer your Brethren, would not the conſequence be a Conqueſt over your ſelves, and all the good People of the Land? And if they are gone, certainly (if you retain your old Principles) you would not deſire to live long after them.

Precious Brethren, We commend unto you that place of Scripture, *Joſh.* 1. 14,15. We ſhall with our bended knees implore the God of Heaven, and King of Saints, to guide you, and perſwade you, as holy *Noah* ſaid in another caſe, *Gen.* 9. 27. *God ſhall perſwade* Japhet *to dwell in the tents of Shem.* Finally, Brethren, farewel, *Be of good comfort, Let us be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace ſhall be with you and us:* We remain,

Your moſt affectionate Brethren, and Fellow-Souldiers.

Dear Friends, We hope to hear in your Anſwer to this, that all our dear Friends now in Bonds, are at Liberty, and that the Lord hath ſatisfied your hearts to acquieſce in his preſent Diſpenſations, ſo as we may not expoſe each other to further Inconveniency.

A RETURN OF THE General & Officers IN SCOTLAND,

To the aforesaid LETTER of the OFFICERS at *Whitehall.*

Dear Brethren, and Fellow Souldiers in the Lord,

IN the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, We return you our most hearty wishes and prayers, That Grace, and Truth, and Peace also might be multiplied unto you: And that to your Faith, and your Vertue, and your Knowledge, and your Temperance, and your Godliness, and your brotherly Kindness, and your Charity, might be added, Patience, and Meekness, and Humility, and Self-denial. Great are the thoughts of our hearts, for the divisions in *Reuben*, and we are (as you express it) deeply affected and afflicted in our own spirits, when we consider what cause we have to be dissatisfied with you, our dear Brethren; you, with whom we have lived and conversed together; with whom we have prayed and fought, and jeoparded our lives together; with whom we have taken sweet Counsel, and walked together in the House of God as Friends: But we cannot conceal from you that our Affection

and

and Affliction of ſpirit is much increaſed by the Letter you ſent us by Captain *Deane*, and by the Books you referred us to in that Letter. We had before ſome ſmall (indeed our onely) hopes that there might be ſome miſtake between us; but alas! We cannot but now think (ſince we find you have no more to ſay for your ſelves) that Our fears were but too true, & the Cauſes of our Diſſatisfaction at your preſent actings but too juſt: We ſhall deal with you with that plainneſs and freedom, and ſincerity that becometh Brethren, for ſo we think it becometh us, *To fulfil all Righteouſneſs:* And ſo we think it expedient both for you and us, that We may the ſooner come to a right underſtanding one of another.

We could not be ſatisfied that there was any ſuch need of more General Officers (the firſt occaſion of this unhappy difference) as that the Parliament ſhould be preſſed to it ſo unſeaſonably, and ſo juſt a jealouſie created in them, that there was a Deſign to ſet up a Single Perſon (of which they had but ſo late, and ſo ſad experience) and we could not but think it ſufficient for the ſecurity of the good Intereſt, that the Army was united under one head, the Parliament.

We were leſs ſatisfied, that after you declared your Satisfaction and Acquieſcence in the Votes of the Houſe, you ſhould endeavour by a new way to wreſt the Power out of their own hands, and to proſecute the ſame Deſigne; This making the Army a Corporation in a manner Independent from the Civil Power, and creating to it an Intereſt, diſtinct from that of the Peoples, by whom they hitherto have, and ſtill muſt live, and for whom they are by their Engagements and Duties bound to dye: and that after you knew the Parliament had in effect diſapproved your Petition, you ſhould ſtill endeavour to get more hands to it, which neither the Parliament, nor we our ſelves could look upon any otherwiſe, then as a deſign to force the Parliament to grant what they had already in effect diſapproved, if not to do that which you ſay was done, at leſs then half an hours warning.

But then that after the ſad experience of ſo many confuſions & toſſings, which theſe poor Nations had already felt by ſuch actings as theſe, after the unhappy (& ſince acknowledged unlawful) former interruption of that (by your ſelves called) *famous long*

Parliament, after the Confuſions and Diſtractions of that *little one* of your own, and not of the Peoples chooſing; after the occaſion by them given to ſome of ſetting up, and the neceſſity impoſed on us of accepting a Single Perſon, contrary to our former Engagements, and to our Intereſts; after our late renewed Engagement, and our ſolemn and ſerious expreſſions of Repentance, That you ſhould ſo ſoon return to your former ſin, and for the apparent intereſt of nine or ten Perſons (who how pretious ſoever, yet cannot be worth the blood that may be ſhed in this quarrel) to put a new force upon the Parliament, and to deſtroy all Lawful Authority in the three Nations, and to put them out of hopes of ever having any for the future, but what ſhall be at your diſpoſals; and to do theſe things in the Name of the whole Army, thereby uſurping a Power over your Brethren, to which you have no right, and involving us in the ſame guilt with yours in the ſame actings, againſt which we are bound to proteſt before God and man: This is that which lieth the ſoreſt upon our Spirits; This is that which wounds us deepeſt.

This is that which muſt of neceſſity make the three Nations ſlaves to the Army, the Armies of *Scotland* and *Ireland*, ſlaves to that of *England*, and that of *England* to nine or ten Perſons, and perhaps in ſhort time thoſe nine or ten, to one ſingle One: The beſt effect it can have muſt be that which you ſo much complain of in the *Armies Plea*, page 25.

That all the pious and good People of this Nation ſhall not enjoy a peaceable and quiet life in all Godlineſs and Hodeſty, but onely ſome part of them.

We cannot but in the Name of the Lord tell you, that theſe Actings make us ſtink in the noſtrils of the good People, and cauſe the Name of God to be evil ſpoken of, and his Enemies to rejoice.

And yet you ſay, Behold, what we have done? and tell us in many, but very general terms, what good things you are for: We likewiſe are for good things as well as you; We are for a Free-State and Commonwealth as well as you; We are againſt a ſingle Perſon as well as you; We are for Reformation as well as you; We are as well as you for Godlineſs and the Nations to be exalted in Righteouſneſs; if ſo be that you be indeed for theſe things which you pretend, and that we differ not in the end as well as in the way to it!

But

But how can you be for good things, as long as you do that which is Evil? How can you be for a Free State and Commonwealth, if for the Intereſt of nine or ten Perſons you diſſolve Parliaments? To what purpoſe is it to be againſt a ſingle Perſon, if you be for nine or ten; or for Reformation, if you return ſo ſoon to former ſins? Or, how can Godlineſs or Righteouſneſs be exalted, by violent and unwarrantable means?

Brethren, Our daily prayer to God is, That we may not be neceſſitated to War with you; but if we be, we muſt tell you that we do not precipitate our ſelves, or run raſhly or inconſiderately into it; We have had time, ſadly and ſeriouſly to conſider the whole Matter, and we muſt deal plainly with you, and tell you, that what you pretend, you had not half an hours time to deliberate about, We have expected from you ſome weeks; We could not but take notice that the occaſion both of Calling and interrupting this Parliament, was, the making of General Officers.

How little deſire we have of making a conqueſt over you, He knows who knows how little joy we ſhould take in it; If there were not ſomething in the Quarrel that is dearer to us than our lives, we ſhould never undertake it.

And now Brethren, as yet dear and precious in our eyes, we beſeech you for the mercies of Jeſus Chriſt to lay theſe things to heart, and as we have done with, *Joſh.*1.14. 15. ſo to reflect ſeriouſly upon *Joſh.*7. Verſe 19. and once more to take the ſhame to your ſelves, and *to repent with a repentance not to be repented of.* Conſider whoſe blood is to be ſhedd on both ſides, what cauſe it is that lies at ſtake, who they are that are like to reap the benefit of our Contentions: Suffer not *Self* or *Intereſt*, nor deſire of the things of this world, to intangle you again in the ſame ſnare, out of which you have ſo lately eſcaped: Lay not up your treaſure in this world, But ſeek firſt the Kingdom of Heaven; Do not evil, becauſe you think good may come of it.

Finally Brethren, ſtand faſt in that Liberty wherein Chriſt hath made you free, and be not entangled again with the Yoke of Bondage. The grace of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt be with you, Amen.

EDINBURGH, Your moſt affectionate and afflicted Brethren, and Fellow-Souldiers.

POST-SCRIPT.

Dear Brethren,

WE intreat you not put ſo hard a Name upon the neceſſary and ſhort reſtraint of our Brethren, as Bonds; We ſtill own them and uſe them as Brethren; their Pay is ſtill continued to them, and the Reſtraint put upon them, for their and your, and our Security, and the Security of all Gods People, we hope will be very ſhort, ſhorter than either you or we can expect: And take it not ill, we acted any thing without firſt ſending to you, We acted nothing but what was neceſſary to our preſent ſafety, and we immediately ſent our Letters to you, which if they came not to your hand, it is not our faults: We have lately ſent Commiſſioners, Men faithful and approved, whom we hope you will treat as Brethren.

For the Right Honourable the Lord Fleetwood, *and the reſt of the Officers of that part of the Army at* London.

THE

THE LETTER

Of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of the CITY *of* LONDON; *To his Excellency,* The Lord General MONCK.

Right Honourable,

WE dare not enter upon the answer to the merits of your Excellencies Letter of the 12th of *November*, which came to our hands the 23d of the same (which was the first and onely that came to us) without Prefacing our hearty, and thankful admiring and acknowledging the transcendent Mercy of God, in putting into your Heart those Pious and Noble Resolutions, so appear at such an Exigent to be the glorious Instrument in his hand, both to Assert and Vindicate the greatest Interest, both Civil and Religious of these Nations. And next, That your singular Humility of Spirit, and Affection to this City, in Communicating to us so early, those your just Resolves, and inviting us to share in the Honour of Assisting, to the obtaining of those great and glorious Ends, in which the happiness of these Nations in general, and of the City, as a Corporation, consists.

In all which our Spirits were both enlightned & warmed by a spark from your zeal, and actuated by God to a present activity in our sphere and capacity, in compliance with your Excellencies advice, as we trust the whole world that hath seen our Actings since the receipt of your Letter, can bear us witness, and that we hope may be our sufficient Plea for Pardon for our not returning a more timely answer to your Excellencies said Letter. But we desire your Excellency to believe, that was principally retarded by suspition cast on the Authentiqueness of it, by those who had the confidence on that score to imprison the Deliverers, and

by the Interpoſition of the Forces here, and led out againſt Your Excellency, who lay in the paſſage to You.

But now (may it pleaſe Your Excellency) ſeeing it hath pleaſed God in ſome meaſure to remove thoſe Obſtructions, We preſume by this to Aſſert in VVriting, what VVe hope all Our Actings, ſince the Receipt of Your Excellencies Advice, have evidenced.

That VVe have cordially concurred with your Excellency, in diſowing the Authour of that Force who interrupted the Parliament, and raviſh'd the Birth-right of theſe Nations, by daring to null and make void Acts of Parliament; and VVe think, have contributed ſomewhat by Gods bleſſing on Our Counſels, and Actings, to the preventing of the ſad Conſequences of that exorbitant preſumption. How fully and entirely VVe comply with Your Excellency, in aſſerting the Authority and Freedom of Parliaments, and the juſt Rights and Liberties of the People, a National Miniſtry, for the enlightning of the Ignorant, and ſuppreſſing of Atheiſm, VVe humbly Refer Your Excellency to Our encloſed Declaration, and do ſeriouſly aſſure Your Excellency, That VVe ſhall (by Gods aſſiſtance) perſiſt faithfully and vigorouſly in this Good Cauſe: And praying God to preſerve your Excellency, and thoſe Noble Commanders with You, in theſe Your Juſt, Honourable, and Chriſtian Undertakings, ſhall Remain,

Your Excellencies Moſt Affectionate and Faithful Friends and Servants,

Guildhall, London, Decemb. 29. 1659.

The Mayor, Aldermen, *and* Commons *of the City of* London *in* Common-Council *Aſſembled.*

In Their Names, and by Their Order,

SADLER.

This Letter is Conveighed by the Sword-bearer of London, *by the ſeveral Directions of the* Lord Mayor, Aldermen, *and Court of* Common-Council.

THE

THE

LETTER

Of His EXCELLENCY, the

Lord Gen. Monck,

In *ANSWER* to the former *LETTER*.

My Lord,

I Received a Letter from your Lordſhip, and the reſt of the Common-Council, of the 29*th* of *December*, and do humbly thank you for that great eſteem which you are pleaſed to put upon our poor Endeavours of the Parliaments Army under my Command, far tranſcending our Merits and Services. As to thoſe Ends which we then declared for, I bleſs the Lord I acted Conſcience, and I hope we were found in the way of duty, and are reſolved by the grace of God to adhere to them, having found ſuch wonderful bleſſings following us in theſe our juſt and honeſt Undertakings.

As your prudent Counſels and courageous Actings, were the great means under God of reſtoring this Parliament to its juſt and lawful Authority, ſo of the ſafety and welfare of the Nations, for which I do for my Self and the reſt of the Officers here, return my very hearty thanks, and we ſhall have ever cauſe to bleſs the Lord for this great mercy, in putting into your hearts ſuch righteous and honourable Reſolutions, to appear at ſuch a time, when our Liberties and Properties, and all that is dear unto us, even the Ordinances of our bleſſed Saviour, were in ſuch hazard.

Indeed, it was much in our hopes, that ſuch a glorious City, that had redeemed themſelves from ſlavery at the price of ſo much blood and treaſure, and had been the great Inſtruments in the hand of God, for the carrying on the Work of Reformation, and bringing three Nations out of the Captivity of Tyranny and Arbitrary Government, could ever conſent to ſuch illegal and unjuſt proceedings. As we do acknowledge your great activity in promoting thoſe great Ends which we lately repreſented to you, ſo we do heartily thank you for the honour and encouragement, which you have been pleaſed in this your Letter to give to the Parliaments Army here; for our ſelves, we having nothing to ſeek (we bleſs the Lord) in all this Affair, but to endeavour the ſafety and Settlement of theſe Nations in general, and of the famous City in particular.

We received your encloſed Declaration, and do chearfully joyn with you therein And I do promiſe you for the Army under my Command, that they are reſolved (by the aſſiſtance of God) to ſtand by and maintain this preſent Parliament, as it ſate on *October* 11. from whom we received our Commiſſions; and do hope, that you that have been ſo eminently Inſtrumental in their reſtoring, will heartily concur with us therein; and ſhall to the utmoſt of our power defend the freedom of ſucceſſive Parliaments and the Liberties Spiritual and Civil of the People in theſe Nations, and ſhall encourage in our Stations, the Godly and Learned Miniſters, and ſhall continue faithful in this Good Cauſe, that the Nations may be ſtabliſhed in a Free Common-wealth, and the Army kept in due obedience to the Civil Authority.

And as we have experienced the great affection of your City in ſuch a day of Darkneſs and great Tryal, ſo we ſhall ever ſtudy to the utmoſt, to expreſs our ſervices for you, and ſhall not think our lives too precious to hazard for your welfare. I think to wait upon you ſhortly, and ſhall reſerve thoſe further acknowledgments to that opportunity, and remain,

New-Caſtle Jan. 6. 1659.

Your Lordſhips very humble Servant,

George Monck.

A

LETTER

SENT FROM

General Monck;

SUPERSCRIBED,

To the Right Honourable *William Lenthall*, Esquire, Speaker to the Right Honourable the Parliament of ENGLAND.

To be Communicated to the reſt of the Members of Parliament at *London*.

Right Honourable,

I Received yours of the 22*d*. inſtant, and deſire to return to our good God hearty thanks, that he hath been pleaſed to own and appear for his People in ſuch glorious inſtances of Mercy and Deliverance. I bleſs the Lord, I never doubted of his preſence and ſucceſs in this undertaking, being ſo righteous a Cauſe; and had long ſince put it to Gods determination, but upon adverti ſements from Friends in *England*, That if I could continue here without engaging till the firſt of *January*, the work would be done without blood. I cannot but admire upon what Intelligence you ſhould be perſwaded of a ſecond Treaty: *I*ndeed *I* was inforced to make uſe of ſuch an Overture, to remove the Commiſſioners from *London*, whom I cannot but blame for receding from their Inſtructions; but I hope

hope they will give you a ſatisfactory account of their proceedings. Yet I acknowledge that I could not but reſent their carriage, having ſecured one of them for betraying the private inſtructions; of which I doubt not but you have been fully informed.

My laſt Anſwer to the Lord *Lambert*, who ſent ſeveral Meſſengers to invite me to a ſecond Treaty, was, That I could not treat without authority from the Commiſſioners for the Government of the Army, and to that end deſired a Paſs for the ſame Meſſengers to go to *Portſmouth* to receive their Commands and Inſtructions; who was returned back with this Anſwer from *Lambert* and the Council of Officers, That they could not conſent thereunto: and ſince that, I have not heard from them.

I have your Army (I bleſs God) upon the River *Tweed*, within three hours ready to be drawn together, and they are very chearful and unanimous, willing to endure any hardſhip for your Service.

The laſt night Capt. *Campbelt* came expreſs from *Ireland*, giving a full account of their affection to the Parliament, and of the late Tranſactions there; That they had ſeized *Dublin* Caſtle, and ſecured *Jones* and others, with a Declaration to ſtand by and own your Authority: for which (on this inſtant) we kept a day of Thanſgiving. They writ alſo to the *Iriſh* Brigade in *England*, which I diſpatched to them. Sir *Hardreſs Waller* gives me an Account, that all the Forces and Garriſons in *Ireland* had Declared for you.

This is ſuch a mercy, that I hope the Lord will make us ſenſible of, and careful to improve. They required my opini on as to managing of the Affairs of the Army, which in ſuch an urgent neceſſity I preſumed to give. I have diſpoſed of moſt of the vacant Commands in *Scotland* to very honeſt men, who are ready to dye for your Service, or to disband at your Command. And before your Letter came to hand, I had diſpoſed of Col. *Saunders* and Major *Bartons* Commands the Lord *Lamberts* Forces preſſing upon me. I could not leave my vacant Places unſupplied; but I know that (this Work proſpering) you will have opportunity enough to gratifie them: Capt. *Izods* place is reſerved for him according to your pleaſure. I humbly

thank

thank the Members of the Council for that Great Honour that they were pleaſed to conferr upon me, and hope you never ſhall find but ſuch an abſolute obedience from me to your Commands, that I ſhall be more ready to return that Commiſſion then to receive it. I believe that you never doubted of my perſevering in thoſe good Principles I declared for, and that I ſhould comfortably (if the Lord had pleaſed to frown upon us) have ſuffered in this moſt Righteous undertaking. I have made ready to March, but am unwilling to hazzard your Juſtice and Authority upon a Fight, when it may be done with more ſecurity I ſhall attend your further Command, and deſire the Lord to bleſs your Forces and Counſels, and to reſtore you in your juſt Authority; which is both the Prayer and endeavour of

Sir,

Caldſtream, 29. December, 1659.

Your moſt humble

and faithful Servant

GEORGE MONCK.

POST-

POST-SCRIPT.

I thought fit to acquaint you, That my Lord *Warreſton* hath endeavoured to ſtir up the People of this Nation as much as he could againſt your Intereſt. Col. *Lyſcot* having been very faithful and active for the Parliament in this Undertaking, I entreat your Lordſhips to be mindful of him for a Regiment of Horſe. I have given him the Command of a Foot-Regiment, but he was alwayes of Horſe, and is a very honeſt and ſtout Gentleman, and fit to Command a Regiment of Horſe. I have ſent your Lordſhips the Copies of my laſt Letters, and of the Officers here, to my Lord *Lambert*, and the Officers of *Newcaſtle*; and alſo to the Commiſſioners of Parliament at *Portſmouth*, that you may be acquainted with our Tranſactions. Major *Knight* has Col. *Saunders* Regiment, and Capt. *Prime* is Major.

I entreat you to Communicate this to the reſt of the worthy Members of Parliament with you.

GEORGE MONCK.

A

LETTER

Sent by His

EXCELLENCY

The LORD

General Monck,

To the CONGREGATED

CHURCHES

In and about

LONDON.

Honoured and dear Friends,

I Received Yours, and am very ſenſible of your Kindneſs, which you have expreſſed to the *Army* in *Scotland*, in ſending down ſuch Honourable and Reverend Perſons, ſo

long and tedious a Journey, whom we have received with thankfulneſs and great joy, as your Meſſengers of the Churches, and Miniſters of Chriſt; and have taken notice of this Office of Love, and of your care of theſe three Nations. I do promiſe for my Truſt, and the reſt of the Officers here, That your Intereſt, Liberty, and Encouragement, ſhall be very dear to us; and we ſhall take this as a renewed Obligation, to Aſſert to the uttermoſt, what we have already Declared for the Churches of Jeſus Chriſt. I doubt not, but you have received Satisfaction of our Inclination to a peaceable Accommodation, and do hope that ſome Difficulties being united, we ſhall obtain a fair Compoſure.

I do aſſure you, that the great things which have been upon my heart to ſecure and provide for, are our Liberties and Freedoms, as we are the Subjects and Servants of Jeſus Chriſt, which are Conveyed to us in the Covenant of Grace, aſſured in the Promiſes, purchaſed for us by the Blood of our Saviour, and given as his great Legacy to his Churches and People; in compariſon of what, we eſteem all other things as Dung and Droſs, but as they have relation to, and dependance upon this moſt noble end: The other are our Laws and Rights as Men, which muſt have their eſteem in the ſecond place, and for which many Members of the Churches hath been eminent Inſtruments, to labour in ſweat and Blood for theſe Eighteen Years laſt paſt;

and

and our Anceſtors many hundred Years before; the ſubſtance of which may be reduced to *Parliamentary Government*; and the People conſenting to the Laws by which they are to be Governed, that this priviledge of your Nations, may be ſo bounded, That the Churches may have both Security and Encouragement, is my great deſire, and of thoſe with me.

So that I hope you will own theſe juſt things, and give us that Aſſiſtance, which becometh the Churches of Chriſt, in purſuance of this Work; And we do aſſure you, that we ſhall comply as far as poſſible, with reſpect had to your Security, and Safety of theſe Nations, and the preſervation of our Antient Birth-Rights, and Liberties; and we ſhall pray that we may be kept from going out of Gods way, under pretence of doing Gods Work.

I do in the Name of the whole *Army*, and for my ſelf, give you all our affectionate thanks for this your Work of Love, and though we are not able to make ſuch Returns, as are in our hearts and deſires to do; yet we ſhall endeavour by all means and wayes, to expreſs our Care and Love to the Churches; and ſhall leave the Reward to him, who is the God of Peace and Truth, in ſpecial aſſured a bleſſing to the *Peace-makers*: And conclude with the words of *David*, 1 *Sam.* 25. 32. *Bleſſed be the Lord God of Iſrael, and bleſſed be your Advice, and bleſſed be you all.* Now the Lord be a Wall of Fire round

about you, and let his preſence be in his Churches, and they filled with his Glory.

I have no more, but to intreat your Prayers for an happy Iſſue to theſe unhappy Differences; Which is the Prayer of him, who is,

Reverend Sirs, and dear Friends,

Edinburgh, *Nov.* 23. 1659.

Your very Affectionate Friend and Servant,

GEORGE MONCK.

For my Reverend Friends, Dr. Owen, *Mr.* Hook, *Mr.* Greenhil; *to be Communicated to the Churches in and about* London.

COLLECTION

Of Several

LETTERS

AND

DECLARATIONS;

SENT BY

General Monck

Unto the Lord *Lambert*, the Lord *Fleetwood*, and the reſt of the *General Council* of *Officers* in the

ARMY.

AS ALSO,

Unto
- That part of the *Parliament*, called the *Rump*.
- The *Committee of Safety*, ſo called.
- The *Lord Mayor* and *Common Council* of the City of *London*.
- The Congregated *Churches* in and about *London*.

B

LONDON, Printed in the Year, 1660.